

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending. Claims 1-11 have been allowed. By this response, claims 13-19 are canceled. Allowance of the application in view of the claim cancellations and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 13-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakabayashi et al. (U.S. 5,319,497) in view of Oinoue et al. (U.S. 6,044,048); and claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wakabayashi, Oinoue and Nii et al. (U.S. patent 6,574,186). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 13-19 have been canceled from the application. Therefore, the above rejections are now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Application in Condition for Allowance

With claims 13-19 canceled, only claims 1-11 remain pending. Claims 1-11 have been recognized as being allowable claims. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Prompt allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings, Reg. No. 48,917 at the telephone number of the undersigned below in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Application No. 10/021,000
Amendment dated February 20, 2007
Reply to Office Action of October 25, 2006

Docket No.: 2257-0202P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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